

Spinster's House
Corotoman
Lancaster County, Virginia

HABS No. VA-153

HABS
VA
52 WEEM,
1-

PHOTOGRAPH
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey
Eugene Bradbury, Architect in Charge
Grace Securities Building, Richmond, Virginia

HABS
VA
52-WEEM.
1-

THE SPINSTER'S HOUSE
Corotoman, Lancaster County, Virginia

Owner: Present owner unknown; original owner John Carter,
father of Robert (King) Carter.

Date of Erection: Circa 1700

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Present Condition: Destroyed

Number of Stories:

Materials of Construction: Brick foundation and chimney,
frame structure.

Other Existing Records: See Swem's Index of Virginia history.

Additional Data:

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COROTOMAN
Lancaster County, Virginia

"The first of the Carter buildings was undoubtedly Corotoman, which, judging from King Carter's great wealth and the extant remains, was a major architectural work. Fine as it was, the mansion was destined for a short life. Built in the first quarter of the eighteenth century, it was burned in 1729 and never rebuilt. ... The inventory of 1732 lists only the items in a small dwelling. This may have been John Carter's house, built after the purchase of the land about 1659, or a dependency of the new mansion. It was probably the old gabled house, standing in ruins, which finally disappeared about 1930. Sometimes called the Spinsters' House, it was of frame, a story and a half high, with large end chimneys. It had a curiously complex plan, complete records of which no longer remain. The site of the great house, on a broad headland looking down toward Chesapeake Bay, is strewn with pieces of cut stone and marble. Scub undergrowth prevents a close examination of the area, but stone revetments in the river are said to bound the old formal shore line which, in turn, bounded the forecourt. In the yard of a small house nearby is the great well, superbly built of wedge-shaped, cut-stone blocks."

(From Thomas T. Waterman's The Mansions of Virginia, 1706-1776... Chapel Hill, N.C., The University of North Carolina press, 1945).

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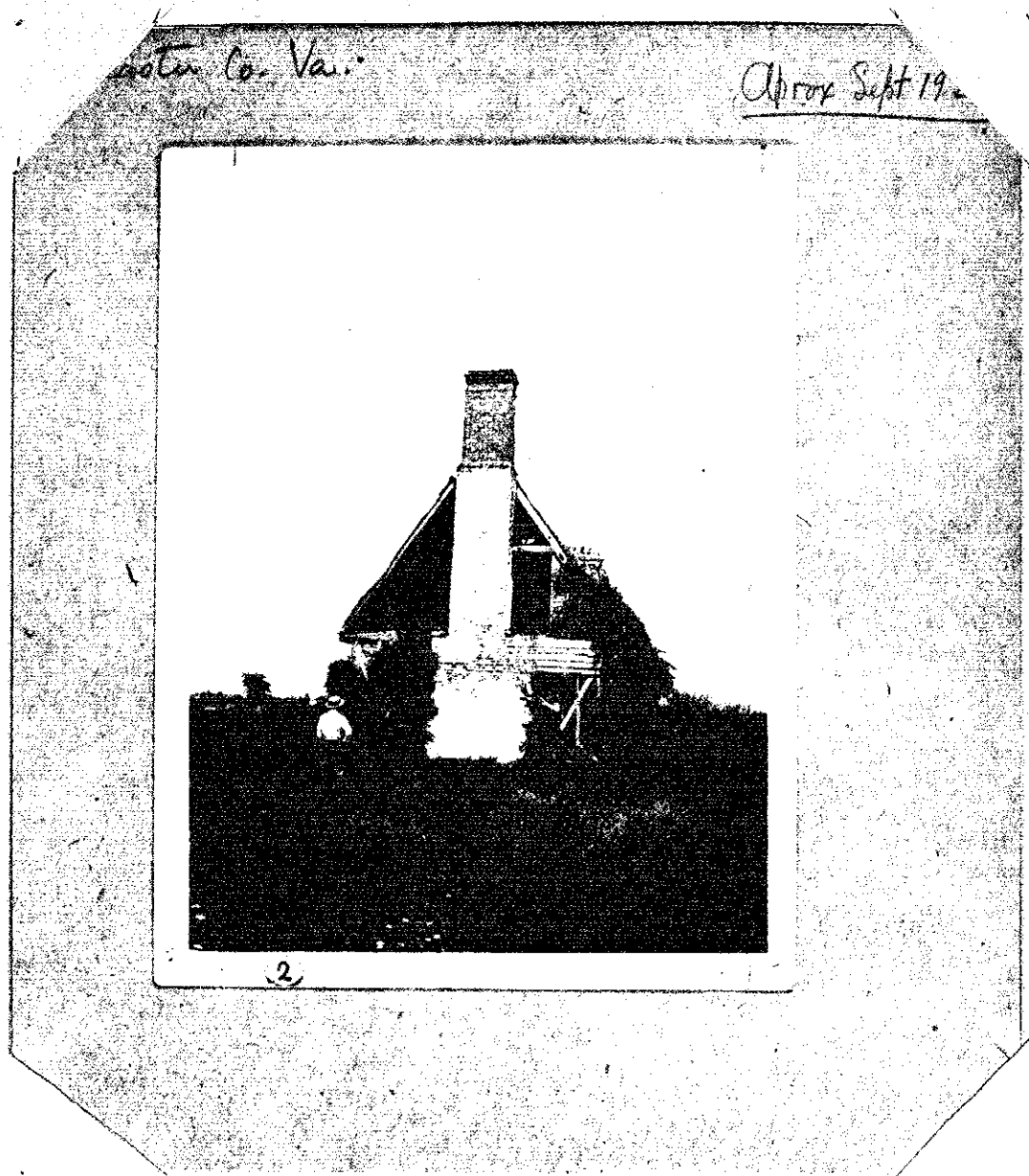
SKETCH NOTES

The Spinster's House
Corotoman, Lancaster County, Virginia

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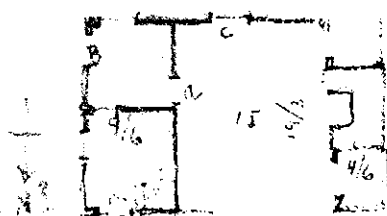


~~Historic American Buildings Survey~~
Delos Smith, photographer

1925

END OF HOUSE

Shingles 5" x 18" - 1/2" thick
Roof pitch 60°/12"



Spinster's House
John Carter
Plantation
Corotoman

Ceiling 8' 2 1/2"

A = 2' 11" x 6' 1/2"

B = 3' 1" x 6' 1/2"

C = 2' 4" x

9" fence rail

Top of Chimney 2' 4"
Weather mud sill
hanging 1/2" mud.

4c = 11' 1/2" B = 2' 1/2" x 4 x 9 Alt. h. 1 + 1/2"